

The Report of the Capture of Booth
HOW IT ORIGINATED.

The report that Booth had been captured and securely lodged on board the monitor Mahopac, seems to have originated as follows:

On Saturday morning a man was captured about fifteen miles this side of Baltimore who answered almost identically the description of Booth, and the authorities here were telegraphed to make due preparation for the safe-keeping of the assassin.

Such preparations were accordingly made, but it was subsequently ascertained that the person arrested, though bearing so singular a resemblance to the criminal, was quite another party.

Up to noon to-day it has not been ascertained that either of the assassins has been found.

THE ASSASSINATION PLOT.
ASTOUNDING DEVELOPMENTS.

Further developments serve to confirm the statement published in the Star Extra yesterday that the plot to assassinate the President and Cabinet was planned long ago, and that the conspirators were only waiting for a favorable opportunity to carry out their designs. That the "Knights of the Golden Circle" were the originators of the conspiracy there is no doubt, and it is also ascertained that the 4th of March was fixed for the commission of the deed. The assassination of Mr. Lincoln throws light upon much which had seemed strange in the conduct of Booth during the past winter, and there is good reason to believe that in murdering Mr. Lincoln he was complying with an obligation of the order of which he was a member, and which obligation had fallen to him by lot.

During the last two months he had seemed to be completely absorbed in some project which none of his friends could fathom. In the midst of associates he would frequently remain silent, or if conversing, would talk in a pointless way, as if thinking of some great trouble. On the 4th of March his conduct was particularly noticed as being unusual. During the morning his nervous actions attracted considerable attention among his acquaintances, from among whom he suddenly disappeared and was not seen again until a friend found him standing on the embankment at the north wing of the Capitol, near which spot the President would necessarily pass. Booth was dressed in a slouch suit, with his pants tucked into the tops of his boots, and an old felt hat drawn over his face. His friend hailed him two or three times, receiving no reply, and finally went up where Booth was standing when the latter for the first time manifested his recognition of the gentleman, his manner conveying an impression that he did not wish to be recognized.

As the President passed, he turned away with his friend, as if disappointed by the absence of some one, and preserved throughout the day a moody silence.

On Friday last he was about the National, as usual, and strolled up and down the Avenue several times. During one of the strolls he stopped at the Kirkwood House and sent in to Vice President Johnson a card, upon which was written:

"I do not wish to disturb you. Are you in?"
"J. WILKES BOOTH."

A gentleman of Booth's acquaintance, at this time met him in front of the Kirkwood House, and in the conversation which followed, made some allusion to Booth's business, and in a jesting way, asked "what made him so gloomy." He had lost another thousand in oil," Booth replied that he had lost considerably by the freshet, that he had been hard at work that day, and was about to leave Washington, never to return. Just then a boy came out and said to Booth, "Yes, he is in his room," upon which, the gentleman walked on, supposing Booth would enter the hotel.

About seven o'clock Friday evening, he came down from his room at the National, and was spoken to by several concerning his paleness, which he said proceeded from indisposition. Just before leaving he asked the clerk if he was not going to Ford's Theater, to-night. "There will be some very fine acting there to-night," The doorman at the theater noticed Booth as he passed in, and shortly after the latter entered the restaurant next the theater and in a hurried manner called for "Brandy, brandy, brandy" rapping at the same time on the bar.

Judge Carter and a Mr. Ferguson saw Booth loitering about the entrance to the President's box, and just previous to the fatal shot lost sight of him.

As before stated in the Star, the State box occupied by the President was formed by removing the partition between two of the upper boxes, thereby leaving two doors opening into the double box thus formed, one of which was locked. A rear of the box, and between the wall of the theater, was a narrow passage with a door at the entrance leading from the dress circle. During the day Booth had evidently visited the box, as is shown by the preparations made for the assassination. Behind the door of the passage a hole had been made in the wall, in which at night Booth inserted the end of a board as a brace against the door, thereby precluding any one from following him from the dress circle. The screws were next removed from the lock of the farther door opening into the double box, the thread of the screw holes broken and the lock and screws replaced, so that should the inmates of the box listen the door by which they entered the other door might be easily pushed open.

Judge Olin and others, on a visit to the theater, satisfied themselves by actual experiment that the door ostensibly locked could thus be pushed in with the greatest ease. The aperture in the panel of the door, which was thought to have been a bullet hole, and thus formed a contradictory feature in the chain of evidence, it now appears was made with a knife, and was designed to enable the assassin to survey the position of the occupants of the box previous to entering himself. The large arm chair always used by the President at the theater, had been removed from its usual position, enabling the murderer to carry out his design more readily as he passed through the box. A pocket knife, the one probably with which the hole was cut in the door, was found lying on the cushion of the balustrade when Mr. Lincoln's party entered the box.

Much of this work of preparation must have been done previously by the assassin, or some confederate knowing the premises, and was probably done during some portion of the day when the theater, or that portion of it, is unoccupied. It would appear, too, from the ease with which the somewhat difficult jump and rebound was made—a leap forward and obliquely to the right—that it had been practiced previously, at some favorable opportunity, by the assassin.

So much has been written concerning the subsequent events, that little remains to be

told. The inmates of the box were first apprised of the presence of another by the report of the pistol. Major Rathbun springing forward immediately to seize the intruder, and receiving a severe wound in the arm from the knife in the hands of Booth, who, by a back-handed, sweeping stroke, evidently sought to prevent capture. This cut paralyzed the Major's arm, and before he could grasp the murderer, the latter sprang upon the stage.

Surgeon Teal, of the Surgeon General's office, was the first medical man to enter the box, and found Mr. Lincoln surrounded by Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, and Major Rathbun, his head hanging back, and blood slowly dripping from the wound. The unconscious victim was immediately laid in a horizontal position, and in about twenty minutes was removed to the house opposite the theater where Mr. Lincoln's family physician, Dr. Stone, took charge of the case.

A COAT FOUND.

Yesterday, a gray coat, stained with blood, and which had evidently been worn as an overcoat, was found near Fort Bunker Hill, just back of Glenwood Cemetery. In the pocket was a false mustache, a pair of riding gloves, and a slip of paper, upon which was written "Mary E. Gardner, 419." This is supposed to have been worn by the man who attacked Secretary Seward, although the weight of the evidence indicates that all the conspirators took the same route, that of the Navy Yard bridge.

TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

This morning Detective Kelley and a detail of patrolmen, of the 2nd Ward, by order of Judge Olin, proceeded to the house of Mollie Turner, corner of 13th street and Ohio avenue, and arrested all the inmates, from the mistress to the cook, eight in all, and carried them to the police headquarters to be held as witnesses. This is the house where Booth spent much of his time, Ella Turner, the woman who attempted suicide, being his kept mistress.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the lamented President LINCOLN will take place on Wednesday next, from the Executive Mansion.

The religious services will commence at eleven o'clock, and the procession move at twelve.

The entire direction of the arrangements of the funeral has been assigned to the Hon. George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, the army and navy officers in command here and the civil authorities, who were receiving directions for the performance of the solemnities of the occasion, which directions will of course be duly announced.

ALMOST A RIOT.

Yesterday, as the rebel General Paine, and his two aids, captured by Col. Gambel, near Warrenton, on Saturday, were being conducted to Col. Ingraham's office, a large and excited crowd collected, and upon a report that the prisoners were implicated in the conspiracy, were with difficulty restrained from attacking them. Upon arriving at the Provost Marshal's office, the crowd rapidly increased in numbers and violence, and at one time it was apprehended that the doors of the building would be forced. Gen. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, addressed the tumultuous throng, and several of Gen. Augur's staff hurried to and fro in the crowd, making personal efforts to preserve order. In the meantime, a strong military guard was ordered out, and the prisoners hurried out through the rear of the office, and removed to the Old Capitol in an ambulance. The crowd, upon learning that the object of its pursuit had gone, dispersed.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The undersigned is directed to announce that the funeral ceremonies of the late lamented Chief Magistrate will take place at the Executive Mansion in this city at 12 o'clock M., on Wednesday, the 19th instant.

The various religious denominations throughout the country are invited to meet in their respective places of worship at that hour, for the purpose of solemnizing the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, April 17, 1865.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

CAPTURE OF MOBILE!!

Five Thousand Prisoners, a Number of Gunboats and Immense Amount of Stores Captured!!

NEW YORK, April 16, VIA CAIRO, April 16.—The Times publishes official dispatches of the capture of Spanish Fort and Blakely, the former at 10:30 on the 9th, with seven hundred prisoners; the latter on the same day by assault, and over five thousand prisoners, and a large amount of ordnance stores, gunboats, and troops.

The proceeding was unresisted.

Mobile was captured last evening by a portion of General Smith's command, assisted by light draft gunboats, after a brief resistance by the enemy.

FROM THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

Imboden's Cavalry Surrendered.—Gen. Rosser gone to North Carolina.

NEW YORK, April 17.—The Herald's Winchester despatch says:

A flag of truce has been received from Imboden's late command, two regiments proposing to surrender on the same terms granted to Lee's army.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Dates from Southampton to April 5.—Judicial Inquiry about the Arming of the "Stonewall."

NEW YORK, April 15.—The steamship Germania, from Southampton on the 5th, has arrived.

The French Government has instituted judicial inquiry at Orléans into the conduct of certain persons accused of attempting to disturb the peace by aiding and abetting the arming of the Confederate cruiser Stonewall.

The News Gone to Europe.

NEW YORK, April 15.—The steamship Etna sailed at 2:30 this afternoon, with full official despatches to our Ministers at foreign ports, from Washington. Official despatches were also sent out per the Nova Scotian, from Portland.

From Wilmington, N. C.

NEW YORK, April 15.—Wilmington, N. C. papers of April 5 contain military news. The capture of Richmond and Petersburg caused great rejoicing there.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION meeting this (Monday) evening at 8 o'clock, at the Washington Hotel, 6th street, on the corner of 14th street.

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OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, April 17, 1865.

It is hereby ordered that in honor to the memory of our late illustrious Chief Magistrate, all officers and others subject to the orders of the Secretary of State wear a badge of mourning for the period of six months.

W. HUNTER, Acting Secretary.

GENERAL ORDERS.

War Department, Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, April 16, 1865.

General Order, No. 6.

The following order of the Secretary of War announces to the armies of the United States, the untimely and lamentable death of the illustrious Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States:

WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON CITY, April 16, 1865.

The distressing duty has devolved upon the Secretary of War to announce to the armies of the United States that at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock, on the morning of Saturday, the 15th day of April, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, died of a mortal wound inflicted upon him by an assassin.

The armies of the United States will share with their fellow citizens the feelings of grief and horror inspired by this most atrocious murder of their great and beloved President and Commander-in-Chief, and with profound sorrow will mourn his death as a national calamity.

The headquarters of every department, post, station, and arsenal will be draped in mourning for thirty days, and appropriate funeral honors will be paid by every army, and in every department and at every military post, and at the Military Academy at West Point, to the memory of the late illustrious Chief Magistrate of the nation and Commander-in-Chief of its armies.

Lieutenant General Grant will give the necessary instructions for carrying out this order into effect.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

On the day after the receipt of this order at the headquarters of every military division, department, army post, station, fort and arsenal, and at the Military Academy at West Point, the troops and cadets will be paraded at 10 o'clock A. M., and the order read to them, after which all labors and operations for the day will cease, and be suspended, as far as practicable in a state of war.

The national flag will be displayed at half-staff.

At dawn of day thirteen guns will be fired, and afterwards at intervals of 30 minutes between the rising and setting sun a single gun, and at the close of day a national salute of 36 guns.

The officers of the armies of the United States will wear the badge of mourning on the left arm, and on their swords, and the colors of their commands and regiments will be put in mourning for the period of six months.

By command of Lieutenant General Grant.

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant, U. S. Army, Commanding Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

General: You will please announce by general order to the armies of the United States that on Saturday, the 15th day of April, 1865, by reason of the death of Abraham Lincoln, the office of President of the United States devolved upon Andrew Johnson, Vice President, who, on the same day, took the official oath prescribed for the President, and entered upon the duties of that office.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1865.

General Order, No. 67.

It is hereby announced to the armies of the United States that on Saturday, the 15th day of April, 1865, by reason of the death of Abraham Lincoln, the office of President of the United States devolved upon Andrew Johnson, Vice President, who, on the same day, took the official oath prescribed for the President, and entered upon the duties of that office.

By command of Lieutenant General Grant.

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

SPECIAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 17, 1865.

Vice Admiral D. G. Farragut and Rear Admiral Wm. B. Shubrick have been designated to make the necessary arrangements on the part of the Navy and Marine Corps for attending on Wednesday next the funeral of the late President of the United States.

GIBSON WELLES, Sec'y of the Navy.

SPECIAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 17, 1865.

Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps will assemble at the Navy Department, in uniform, at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday next, for the purpose of attending the funeral of the late President.

GIBSON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

SPECIAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 17th April, 1865.

By order of the President of the United States, the Navy Department will be closed on Wednesday next, the day of the funeral solemnities of the late President of the United States.

Labor will also be suspended on that day at each of the Navy Yards and Navy Stations and upon all the vessels of the United States.

The flags of all vessels and at all the Navy Yards and Stations, and Marine Barracks, will be kept at half-mast during the day, and at 12 o'clock, meridian, twenty-one minute guns will be fired by the senior officer of each squadron and the Commandants of each of the Navy Yards and Stations.

GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865.

The Department announces, with profound sorrow, to the officers and men of the Navy and Marine Corps the death of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the late President of the United States. Stricken down by the hands of an assassin, on the evening of the 14th instant, when surrounded by his family and friends, he lingered a few hours after receiving the fatal bullet, and died at seven o'clock twenty-two minutes this morning. A grateful people had given their willing confidence to the patriot and statesman, under whose wise and successful administration the nation was just emerging from the civil strife which for four years has afflicted the land with its terrible calamity.

To him our gratitude fell upon the country. To him our gratitude was justly due, for to him, under God, more than to any other person, are we indebted for the successful vindication of the integrity of the Union and the maintenance of the power of the Republic.

The officers of the Navy and of the Marine Corps will, as a manifestation of their respect for the exalted character, eminent position, and inestimable public services of the late President, and as an indication of their sense of the calamity which the country has sustained, wear the usual badge of mourning for six months. The Department further directs that, upon the day following the receipt of this order, the commandants of squadrons, navy yards, and stations will direct the ensign of every vessel in their several commands to be hoisted at half-mast, and a gun to be fired every half hour, beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset. The flag of the several navy yards and Marine barracks will be hoisted at half-mast.

GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

NOTICE.

As my place of business will be closed on Wednesday, the 16th day of April, 1865, I hereby respectfully request all my customers to send in their orders for delivery on Tuesday, the 15th day of April, 1865.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

SECOND EDITION.
5 O'CLOCK P. M.

ARRESTS OF MEN IN FEMALE ATTIRE.

Several arrests of parties suspected of being connected with the murder of Mr. Lincoln and the attempted assassination of Secretary Seward and sons have been made. Yesterday, four men, dressed in female attire, were arrested in Georgetown and committed to the Old Capitol.

THE INVESTIGATIONS.

Investigations by the civil and military authorities are still in progress, and the testimony of a large number of witnesses has already been taken. These investigations are proceeding quietly, however, as it is deemed best for the ends of justice that no publicity should be given at present to the facts elicited.

THE LAYING IN STATE.

The preparations for laying out in state the corpse of the late President will be completed this evening, and to-morrow an opportunity will be afforded the public to view the features of the deceased for the last time. We have been requested to state that no one will be allowed to loiter about the White House through curiosity, but all will be required to pass out of the building after having viewed the corpse. This measure is requested that a jam may be avoided and order preserved.

THE COFFIN.

The coffin in which the late President is to be buried (designed and manufactured by Messrs. R. F. & G. W. Harvey, undertakers, 7th street,) is a magnificent affair indeed, costing about \$1,000. It is of mahogany, lined with lead, and covered with the finest black cloth.

The outside of the coffin is festooned with massive silver tacks, representing drapery; in each fold of which is a silver star. There are eight massive handles to the coffin, four being placed on each side. The outer edges of the coffin are tastefully scalloped with silver brads to which are attached five tassels of five inches each in length.

A row of silver tacks encircles the entire top of the coffin, being placed two inches from the outer edge, while a silver plate, encircled by a shield formed of tacks of the same material, occupies a central position on the top lid, with stars at the head and foot of the coffin, on the outside.

The inside of the face lid is raised with white satin, the center piece being trimmed with black and white silk braid, fastened down with sixteen silver stars, four to each corner. The face lid and the top of the coffin is fastened together with five silver stars.

The inside of the coffin is superbly lined with box pleated satin, the bottom and pillow being of the finest white silk, while rich three inch chenille satin fringe encircles the entire inside.

THE FUNERAL.

Assistant Secretary Harrington, of the Treasury Department, and the other officials delegated to make the necessary arrangements for the funeral, have been actively engaged all day in discharging their duties, the details of which will be announced in the papers to-morrow.

A CLUE TO THE ASSAILANT OF MR. SEWARD.

About three weeks ago, a man named Atzerad, represented as being a merchant at Bryantston, Charles county, Md., went to the stables of Thompson Naylor, corner of 13th and E streets, for the purpose of selling a stallion and a brown horse, blind in one eye. Atzerad made several attempts to sell the horses to the Government, but without success, and finally disposed of the stallion to Mr. Thompson, stage contractor to Port Tobacco. He continued to visit Mr. Naylor's stables, however, and in a short time reported that he had also sold his brown horse.

On Friday afternoon a man named Harid, who appeared to be intimate with Atzerad, came to the stable and hired a roan pacing horse, and shortly afterwards Atzerad appeared with a bay horse, which he left, telling the hostler to have it ready for him at ten o'clock that night. Upon calling for the horse at the appointed time the hostler asked what had become of his friend Harid and the roan, to which Atzerad replied, "He has not returned yet." He then heard the pace of the roan coming down from the direction of the Treasury, and went out to meet him, but the rider apparently to avoid the hostler, turned up 11th street and down F. The latter immediately went back to the stable, and fearing Harid intended to make off with the horse, saddled another and followed him to the Navy Yard bridge, where, in answer to his inquiries, the guard stated that a man riding such a horse had passed over, and was probably about a quarter of a mile in advance. John was also told that he might go over, but could not return before morning. He then came back to the stable, and hearing that a horse had been taken up in the street by the detectives made some inquiries, and after giving his statement to the Provost Marshal was shown a saddle, which he identified beyond doubt as the one used on the brown horse when at Naylor's stable, and which Atzerad said he had sold.

MEETING AT THE CAPITOL.

A meeting of the Senators and Representatives now in Washington, was held to-day in the reception room of the Senate Chamber, to arrange for participation in the funeral ceremonies. Senator Foster presided, and Speaker Colfax was appointed secretary.

Brief but feeling addresses were made by Senators Foote, Johnson, Sumner and others, and various propositions offered, the substance of which was, that the pall-bearers should consist of one Representative from each State and Territory, and that an escort formed in a similar manner should proceed with the remains to Springfield, Illinois.

Finally a Committee of five Senators and five Representatives was appointed, to which was referred the propositions above, with instructions to report at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

To the People of the State of Illinois:

The funeral ceremonies of the late lamented Chief Magistrate are to take place in this city, at the Executive Mansion, at twelve m., on Wednesday, the 19th instant.

The Acting Secretary of State has invited the various religious denominations throughout the country to meet in their respective places of worship at that hour, for the purpose of solemnizing the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

Responding to the spirit of this announcement, I call upon the people of Illinois, the home of her martyred son, to meet in their respective churches and places of public worship on that day, to observe in such manner as the painful occasion shall suggest, the solemn hour.

R. J. OLNEY, Governor.

MR. SEWARD AND SON.

Secretary Seward suffered considerable pain last night from the wound in his neck, but he is much better this morning, and his speedy recovery is looked for.

Mr. Frederick Seward's condition is more favorable this morning, we are glad to say, and strong hopes are now entertained of his recovery. Last night he showed signs of returning consciousness, and this morning he recognized one of his attendants.

Mr. Hansell, one of the messengers of the State Department, who received a severe cut in the back from the hands of Mr. Seward's would-be assassin, is improving, and will recover.

MRS. LINCOLN.

Mrs. Lincoln has somewhat recovered from her extreme prostration of Saturday, and, surrounded by sympathizing friends, is gradually becoming more reconciled to her affliction. At Mrs. Lincoln's special request, Mrs. Welles, wife of the Secretary of the Navy, has been in constant attendance each day at the White House.

ANOTHER TUMULT.

This forenoon, some prisoners, dressed in the well-known Confederate homepun, passed up the avenue under military guard, and were recognized as Grafton Salt and Jarboe, (at one time in the Old Capitol on a charge of murder, and believed to be the same as the Prince George's county. The latter was mounted upon horseback, and one report alleged that he was a Union man brought in as a witness only.

As they were being taken to the Old Capitol Prison, from Provost Marshal Ingraham's office, a large crowd followed, increasing in numbers at every corner, although as a precautionary measure the route taken was down the back street. The crowd was a motley one, all ages and colors being represented, and the report that the parties were Booth and Suratt gaining credit, as they reached the vicinity of the Baltimore and Annapolis bridge, was raised, "Hang them," "Kill them," and at the same time the prisoners were attacked with stones, being struck several times as they also fled.

The guard orderly persons attempted to quiet the crowd by restraining them with their arms, and assuring them that they were mistaken, but they failed to stop the riotous proceedings which however, were soon quieted after the guard having been struck a number of times reaching a street faced about and made ready to defend themselves with their muskets. The prisoners were delivered to the superintendent of the prison, each of them having been somewhat bruised by the "flying missiles."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

Overwhelmed as the country has been by the blow which has stricken down its honored head and disabled, for the time, one of its chief advisers, it is a satisfaction to know that the ship of state is sailing on with scarcely a perceptible careen from the shock which traitors fondly hoped would disable her hopelessly.

President Johnson has the helm steadily in hand, and, suddenly as the task was devolved upon him—and exhibits a degree of practical good sense and sagacity, a knowledge of public affairs, and an appreciation of the requirements of the emergency that gives infinite satisfaction to those who have come in official contact with him; affording the gratifying assurance that the destinies of the country are safe in his hands.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON.

Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, December 29, 1808. When he was four years of age he lost his father, who died from the effects of exertion to save a friend from drowning. At the age of ten he was apprenticed to a tailor in his native city, with whom he served seven years. His mother was unable to afford him any educational advantages, and he never attended school a day in his life. While learning his trade, however, he resolved to make an effort to educate himself. His anxiety to be able to read was particularly excited by an accident which was the result of meeting a gentleman of Raleigh in the habit of going into the tailor's shop and reading while the apprentice and journeymen were at work. He was an excellent reader, and his favorite book was a volume of speeches, principally of British statesmen. Johnson became interested, and his first ambition was to equal him as a reader and become familiar with those speeches. He took up the alphabet without an instructor; but by applying to the journeymen with whom he worked, he obtained a little assistance. Having acquired a knowledge of the letters, he applied for the loan of the book which he had so often heard read. The owner made him a present of it, and gave him some instruction on the use of letters in the formation of words. Thus his first exercises in spelling were in that book. By perseverance he soon learned to